

REMARKS

The new claims presented herein are directed to an aspect of applicants' invention described in pages 42-49 of applicants' specification, with reference to FIGS 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 16C, 17A and 17B. In this aspect of the invention, the problem of increased capacitance caused by increasing the area of two parallel RF electrodes is addressed. More specifically, and as recited in the new claims, two or more spaced-apart pairs of smaller parallel electrodes (212 and 214 constituting a pair) are substituted for a single, larger pair. A metal shield (218) is disposed between adjacent pairs of electrodes, transverse to the waveguide structure, to prevent RF coupling between adjacent pairs of electrodes. In the preferred embodiment, the metal shield is grounded. It is believed that these claims are patentable over prior art of record in the application.

If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. **06-1130** maintained by applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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